



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 6, 1972

INTERAGENCY CLASSIFICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Dear Dick:

As you may know, the Interagency Classification Review Committee (ICRC) today was unable to address the Associated Press request for materials on the Guatemala situation of 1954. The reason for our inability to review the situation was your refusal to make any papers from CIA files available to members of the Committee other than myself.

On my part, while I appreciated your letting me see the papers myself, I was much disappointed at their innocuous nature. I can visualize no logical reason why they could not be examined by the other members of the Committee.

In addition, my pleas that CIA produce at least some staff estimates or summaries from years past, even sanitized was refused. I cannot believe that none exists.

In passing, I might also mention the arbitrary action by CIA in raising the number of persons authorized to classify TOP SECRET from 510 to 797.

As the result of these matters, I can only surmise that you have no intention of actually abiding by the spirit of the President's Executive Order #11652, at least as it applies to CIA. If I am correct in this conclusion, then I think it should be brought out in the clear.

A sentence in one of your memoranda states that your statutory responsibilities transcend the President's Executive Order. The paper further asserts that there is no conflict between the two. Here I disagree in that CIA, by the Order, is a member of the ICRC and subject to its authority. If you feel that you should be considered the final authority regarding all CIA material - that CIA will never release anything at any time to the public - then it would seem wise for you to contact the President directly to this effect or submit to the ICRC your recommendations for changes in the wording of the Order.

For my part, I have no recourse other than to inform the President of my side of this impasse, which I intend to do.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John S. D. Eisenhower".

John S. D. Eisenhower
Chairman

The Honorable Richard Helms
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

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OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP					
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS		DATE	INITIALS	
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NOTE ATTACHED TO LETTER TO MR. RICHARD HELMS FROM JOHN S.D. EISENHOWER